

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W

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P R 111618Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9436

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4420

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO'S HOSPITALIZATION

REF (A) MADRID 4356; (B) MADRID 4385

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE SOME CONTINUED DOUBTS RE TRUE STATE OF FRANCO'S CONDITION, HOSPITAL BULLETINS, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND NEWS MEDIA ALL REPORT IMPROVEMENT AND RECOVERY AMID REPORTS HE MAY LEAVE HOSPITAL IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS.. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDICAL BULLETIN ISSUED TODAY AT HOSPITAL WHERE GENERAL FRANCO IS INTERNED REPORTS CONTINUED PROGRESS AND RECOVERY AND INDICATES FRANCO WAS EVEN ABLE TO LEAVE BED FOR LIGHT EXERCISE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE ENTERING HOSPITAL JULY 9. BULLETIN ALSO CLAIMS SYMPTOMS OF PHLEBITIS IN THE LEG HAVE ALMOST DISAPPEARED FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT.

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3. TODAY'S PRESS ALSO REFLECTS SUBSTANTIAL OPTIMISM THAT FRANCO EN ROUTE TO RAPID RECOVERY.

4. SOME REPORTS CLAIM FRANCO MAY EVEN BE ABLE LEAVE HOSPITAL WITHIN THREE OF FOUR DAYS.

5. FRANCO CONTINUES TO RECEIVE STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS AND WELL-WISHERS. YESTERDAY VIRTUALLY ALL CABINET MINISTERS VISITED FRANCO, AND HE REPORTEDLY HELD RELATIVELY LENGTHY INTERVIEWS WITH PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, AND FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA. JUAN CARLOS ALOS VISITED HIM AGAIN TODAY.

6. PRIME MINISTER ARIAS TODAY PRESIDED OVER REGULAR CABINET MEETING, REPORTEDLY FIRST TIME FRANCO HAS EVER BEEN ABSENT FROM CABINET MEETING.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC SIGNS REGARDING FRANCO'S ILLNESS AND FACT THAT OPERATION HAS NOT PROVED NECESSARY, THERE STILL SPECULATION FRANCO'S CONDITION MAY NOT BE AS GOOD, OR PROGNOSIS AS FAVORABLE, AS BOTH ATTENDING PHYSICIANS AND GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE PUBLIC BELIEVE.

8. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT FRANCO IS CONTEMPLATING TAKING SOME STEP TO DESIGNATE PRINCE JUAN CARLOS PROVISIONAL CHIEF OF STATE AND THAT DECREES FOR THIS EVENTUALITY MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REAL EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT FRANCO CONSIDERING THIS MEASURE. AND I DO NOT CONSIDER IT LIKELY.
RIVERO

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